

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on April 9, 2026, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present:      Vice Chair Nathan Barten  
   Commissioner Garth Anderson  
   Commissioner Shane Bennett (via Zoom)  
   Commissioner Laura Moore  
   Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent:      Chair Megan Ealain  
   Commissioner Todd Arts

Also Present:                              City Council Liaison Eric Peters  
   Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood

**1.      CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Barten called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2.      CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.      APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chair Barten; Commissioners Bennett, Moore, Anderson, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: Chair Ealain and Commissioner Arts.

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:   Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes:

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2026

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chair Barten; Commissioners Bennett, Anderson, Moore, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: Chair Ealain and Commissioner Arts.

## **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Nominate Chair and Vice-Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission**

Motion by Acting Chair Barten, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to designate Shane Bennett as Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission from April 2026 through March 31, 2027.

Commissioner Bennett accepted the nomination.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chair Barten; Commissioners Olson, Anderson, and Moore. Voting No: None. Absent: Chair Ealain and Commissioner Arts.

Acting Chair Barten asked if there is any interest in the Vice Chair position. He noted that he would be willing to continue in the position if no one else were interested.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to designate Nathan Barten as Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission from April 2026 through March 31, 2027.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chair Barten; Commissioners Bennett, Anderson, Moore, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: Chair Ealain.

### **5.02: Tree Planting with Ramsey's Environmental Policy Board and Parks and Recreation Department/Commission**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the City has been a Tree City for the past four decades, and the City annually holds a tree planting. He stated that this year they will be using funds from the \$84,000 grant received from the Metropolitan Council for Ash tree replacement in parks and boulevards. He stated that, along with volunteers, they will be planting 20 trees at Alpine Park on April 27<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged members of the Commission to attend and participate.

Acting Chair Barten thanked staff for applying for and being successful with the grant.

Commissioner Bennett asked for information on the timing of additional tree planting as a result of the grant funds.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that while he hopes that the additional 109 trees would be planted in the spring, he also acknowledged that spring is the busiest time of year for parks staff. He noted that any of the trees that are not planted in the spring will be planted in the fall.

Acting Chair Barten asked if there are any plans to ensure that native trees will be planted.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the grant text included a list of tree species that could be planted, along with other regulations to ensure that the City does not plant too many of one species.

### **5.03: Consider Park and Recreation 2026 Outdoor Meeting Schedule**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that each year, the Commission identifies an outdoor meeting schedule. He explained that the outdoor meeting allows the Commission members to visit different parks and meet residents in their own neighborhoods for more casual conversations. He stated that in the staff report, he made some suggestions, including The Waterfront in July and The Draw in August. He welcomed input from the Commission on the other meeting locations.

Acting Chair Barten noted the planned improvements for Riverdale Park this year and wondered if that could be a good fit for September.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the grant application for that project was just submitted, and they will not hear back until June. He stated that the playground project may not be completed by that time and noted that the Commission also visited that park last September. He stated that in May, the Commission could visit Central Park, as that would be one year from completion of the playground project. He noted that in June, the Commission could consider Emerald Pond and noted that North Commons could be a good choice for September. He anticipated that the Commission would be discussing an additional community garden as the plots at North Commons are full, and the anticipated painting of the water tower would require the community garden at North Commons to be taken offline for a season.

Commissioner Bennett stated that he also had Emerald Pond on his list, as they had not been there for a while. He also agreed that North Commons would be a good location, especially with the anticipated interruption to the community garden.

Acting Chair Barten asked about the playgrounds that were next on the list for replacement. He stated that he would not recommend changing the outdoor meeting locations as discussed, but would like to visit those other locations on his own.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that Solstice and Flintwood Terrace were the other top parks for playground replacement.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the 2026 outdoor meeting locations as follows: May 14<sup>th</sup> at Central Park, June 11<sup>th</sup> at Emerald Pond, July 9<sup>th</sup> at The Waterfront, August 13<sup>th</sup> at The Draw, and September 10<sup>th</sup> at North Commons.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chair Barten; Commissioners Moore, Anderson, Bennett, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: Chair Ealain and Commissioner Arts.

## **6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that a list of recreational events and programming was included in the staff report and provided a brief overview.

Commissioner Moore commented that it is Parks and Recreation Week at the farmers market on July 7<sup>th</sup> and asked if there is anything needed from the Commission for that event.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the Recreation Coordinator most likely has some ideas and can provide more information on that before the event.

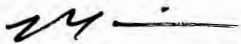
## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chair Barten; Commissioners Bennett, Moore, Anderson, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: Chair Ealain and Commissioner Arts.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*